

Message Text

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71

ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 RSC-01 RSR-01 /009 W

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R 181922Z JUL 73

FM AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8839

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

UNCLAS RIO DE JANEIRO 2506

FOR DEPT/SCI:

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TBIO, BR

SUBJ: FISH KILL IN LAGOA RODRIGO DE FREITAS

PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO ROBERT CITRON, SMITHSONIAN
INSTITUTION, CENTER FOR SHORT-LIVED PHENOMENA, 60 GARDEN ST.,
CAMBRIDGE, MASS. 02138:

REF: URTEL OF 6/29/73

1. DESCRIPTION: LAGOA RODRIGO DE FREITAS IS A LAGOON OF BRACKISH
WATER IN SOUTH ZONE OF RIO DE JANEIRO BORDERING THE DISTRICTS OF
IPANEMA AND LEBLON, AND CONNECTED BY A CANAL TO THE OCEAN.

2. LOCATION OF CETER: LAT 22 DEGREES 58 MINUTES SOUTH, LONG
43 DEGREES 13 MINUTES WEST.

3. AREA AND DEPTH: AREA IS ABOUT ONE SQUARE MILE, AND AVERAGE
DEPTH IS 2.8 METERS.

4. HISTORY OF FISH KILLS: FISH KILLS IN LAGOA HAVE BEEN RECORDED
SINCE 1850, WITH INCREASING FREQUENCY SINCE 1921. 26 KILLS RECORDED
SINCE 1953, OCCURRING VARIOUSLY THROUGHOUT ALL MONTHS OF YEAR.
REPORTED TONNAGES REMOVED FROM LAKE VARY BETWEEN 2 AND 450 TONS,
LATTER BEING LARGEST KILL EVER RECORDED, IN NOVEMBER 1971.

5. LAST FISH KILL: 11-15 JUNE 1973; SMALL KILL; FIGURES
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UNAVAILABLE ON NUMBER OF DEAD FISH REMOVED. PROBABLY SEVERAL TONS.

6. PREVIOUS KILL: MID-NOVEMBER 1972. ESTIMATED 95 TONS OF FISH REMOVED.

7. SPECIES OF FISH KILLED: 3 MAIN SPECIES KILLED (RELATIVE NUMBERS OF EACH NOT KNOWN); BRAZILIAN NAMES: TAINHA, SAVELHA, ROBALO; ENGLISH NAMES: MULLET, MENHADEN, SHOOK; SCIENTIFIC NAMES: MUGIL SPP., BREVOORTIA SPP., CENTROPOMIS UNDECIMALIS.

8. PROBABLY CAUSES OF KILLS: LAGOA HAS BEEN INCREASINGLY POLLUTED WITH SEWAGE OVER LAST CENTURY. EXCHANGE OF WATER FROM SEA IS MINIMAL. DEEP SLUDGE ON LAKE BOTTOM SUPPORTS ANEROBIC BACTERIA AND PRODUCES H₂S. PERIODIC DISTURBANCES OF LAYERING IN WATER PRODUCED BY METEOROLOGICAL FACTORS (SOLAR HEATING, EVAPORATION, SURFACE WINDS, ETC.) BRING UP LOWER LAYER TO SURFACE. FISH KILLS ARE THOUGHT TO ARISE MORE FROM H₂S POISONING THAN OXYGEN STARVATION.

9. NAMES OF INVESTIGATORS: INVESTIGATIONS AND PLANNING TO CURE PROBLEM ARE IN HANDS OF STATE OF GUANABARA AGENCY SURSAN (SUPERINTENDENCIA DE URBANIZACAO E SANEAMENTO). NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF INVESTIGATORS ARE: DR. JOSE SANTA RITA, DIRECTOR, INSTITUTO DE ENGENHARIA SANITARIA, SURSAN, RUA FONSECA TELES 121, RIO DE JANEIRO, GUANABARA, BRAZIL; DR. VITOR MONEIRO BARBOSA COELHO, DIRECTOR, DIVISAO DE CONTROLE DE POLUICAO, SAME ADDRESS. BOONSTRA

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEE.

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